

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Volume XVIII.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1903.

Number 41.

## AGRICULTURE

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS. CXXIX.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Oftentimes we want to turn horses and cattle in fields of cowpeas, and yet we are afraid they will eat enough to kill them. We have followed this plan over twenty years and have yet to lose our first. Just two hours before the stock are turned they are given all the hay, etc., they will eat up clean, and when they reach the peas there is room for only a small quantity. Let them remain about two hours. Repeat this the next day, but do not give so much hay and let the stock remain one hour longer. Continue this plan for two days longer, decreasing the hay and increasing the time, and the results will be satisfactory.

#### SWEET POTATOES IN THE NORTH

The Northern people are learning to eat our Southern sweet potatoes, the kinds which we prize so highly, such as the nortan yam, vineless, sugar yams, etc. Those who have tried them speak in the highest terms about the superior qualities over the yellow Jerseys. We think it would be best for the Agricultural Department of the State to prepare a circular giving our way of cooking and making the different dishes which we enjoy so much. Let the farmers have them at cost. And when the farmer is nailing up his package or barrel, let him place a lot of these on top of the potatoes. It would be best to have the circulars enclosed in an envelope with a few words printed on the envelope like these: "It will pay you to read the enclosed; something new; what the South is doing," etc.

#### THE KIND OF POTATOES THAT SELL WELL

We spent two months in the Northern cities, and when we were not confined to our bed or kept in by bad weather, we traveled over different parts of the cities, studying the markets. Here is the first thing we observed: every fruit, vegetable, etc., in order to bring the highest prices, must have a bright, clean look. Potatoes (sweet) must be free from dirt. This is likely the cause of their slow consumption. We, in the South, prefer those with black skin, but we should not send these, but keep them for the home market. Almost any farmer can select the kind of land that will produce the bright skin

kinds. Now as to size: We saw them from the size of a goose egg to some that would weigh four pounds. We could not find out the size most popular.

It would be well to take care of the second crop of Irish potatoes, as the crop is short at the North. We carefully examined the market of this crop to see the kind and sizes mostly sought after. The light skin, medium size, or those about four inches long, seem to take the fancy of most consumers.

HARRY FARMER.

#### Suppose.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Suppose an intelligent farmer were in such circumstances that he was able to subscribe to one newspaper only, which ought it to be? (Of course what I have to say is meant only for North Carolinians.) If the intelligent farmers will permit me to answer that question for them, I would immediately say, "take The Progressive Farmer." Now some reasons for my answer:

First. This paper is better for him than a daily would be, for few farmers have time to read a paper every day.

Second. Because it contains such a variety of such excellent articles on the various branches of farm work, always written by experienced and capable men who know the truth of statements made by them, and whose suggestions are well worthy of being considered.

Third. Not only is the paper well supplied with articles on the subjects which bear specially upon the day, but many other subjects are treated of which interest, or ought to interest, every man who desires to be considered as being alive to every important event which occurs, not only in his own country, but in all the countries of the world.

And the editorials are always strong, terse, and bravely stand for the right, hurt who it may. In fact, the whole paper is highly educational. And the writer thinks that it would be a good idea for every public school in the State to have in its library a weekly copy of The Progressive Farmer.

ARACHEL.

Lenoir Co., N. C.

Asheville dispatch: A wholesale dealer to-day said that the apple crop of this section was about the poorest that has been known in years. A large number are being marketed, but the quality is so poor that they are unfit for shipping.

#### Two Undeveloped Resources.

The South is a land of vast and varied resources. In her bosom lie untold treasures and possibilities. What she can and may become no pen can describe, no prophet can foresee.

Some of her capacities are fully developed. Her capacity for beer and whiskey consumption needs no further development. Neither does her capacity for gambling in cotton and other futures need any further development. She has also produced an abundant crop of second and third rate politicians. These and some other lines of production are rather overdone than underdone.

Some other lines, such as railroad building, factory building and town and city building are growing perhaps with sufficient rapidity. They do not call for special encouragement.

But when we come to consider her agricultural resources we find a practically unlimited field for growth and culture. While much has been done, much remains still to be done.

We desire in this article to call special attention to two undeveloped resources in her agriculture.

#### THE PRODUCTIVE POWER OF ACRE OF LAND.

Statistics show that in our leading crops we produce about six bushels of wheat, ten bushels of corn, and about one hundred and eighty pounds of cotton per acre.

Statistics equally reliable show that we have produced over sixty bushels of wheat, over one hundred and twenty-five bushels of corn and over two thousand pounds of cotton lint per acre.

As yet no one claims that these figures represent the highest possibilities of an acre of either of these crops.

Better culture would produce even a better yield than this.

But as these are about twelve times the average they should make us stop and think. Are we producing only one-tenth of what we ought to produce on an acre? About one-tenth of what our neighbors have produced? About one-tenth of what we can produce?

Can we make as much on one acre as we are now making on ten? If we can do it, how can it be done, and why are we not doing it?

If we can not reach ten times as much, can we not get somewhere in that direction? At least, is it not worth while to try?

But we are not confined to the few crops mentioned above.

#### DIVERSITY.

We should try to develop the undeveloped productive power of some of our acres in fruits, vegetables and forage crops. An acre in cucumbers often produces five hundred dollars worth. In strawberries \$300 to \$400, in onions \$300 to \$600, in blackberries, raspberries, dewberries, cherries, plums, peaches, pears, cabbage, lettuce, beans, tomatoes and numerous other crops, \$300 to \$500 is not an unusual yield for an acre.

Why not try to develop some of your resources in some of these directions?

#### THE FARMER.

So far we have spoken of the undeveloped resources of the farm. Before closing we desire to call attention to the undeveloped resources of the farmer.

Many of us are too narrow, we have not broadened out as we should have done. We are the creatures of habit, rather than of thought. Our labor is of the hand rather than of the head. We work with our muscles, rather than with our brains.

We need to develop ourselves. We need to give more of our time to reading and studying about the nature and habits of the plants we try to grow.

We should familiarize ourselves with the composition of our soils as to plant food, and the wants and needs of planting in the way of plant food and plant feeding. We need to understand what is necessary for the production of a perfect plant and how to furnish it.

We do not need more brains but more culture for the brains we have.

We need fully developed farmers, that we may surround ourselves with fully developed farms. There is more in the man than there is in the land. To a very important extent the man either makes or un-makes the land.—Southern Cultivator.

Washington Gazette-Messenger: After traveling through several counties in middle North Carolina we are glad to be able to say that the farmers generally are prospering, and that the business outlook is good. The cotton crop is not large, but with present prices the farmers are very cheerful. Corn and potato crops, generally speaking, are good, with an abundant crop of persimmons, locusts, grapes and acorns for swine. We are thankful to say that there is a plenty for all and some to spare.